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New man at CIA

Bush will begin with a fight

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WASHINGTON.—Although unavoidably handicapped even before taking over as new director of the beleaguered Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), George Bush is being given a hard warning by intelligence and bureaucratic experts deeply concerned over the future of the CIA.

The warning: Both Congress and

administration planners may try to separate the Director of Central In-

telligence (DCI) from on-the-spot control of CIA operations inside the cavernous CIA headquarters building at Langley, Va.

The strong advice that Bush block all such efforts is aimed at countering studies by the White House and congressional intelligence committees looking toward a new organizational set-up at CIA.

One study, for example, would give the DCI a White House office and make him in effect an intelligence front man for the President, charged with soothing Congress and working the lecture circuit for a massive public relations effort to change voter perceptions of the tarnished CIA.

Bush is being warned that any such arrangement, separating the DCI from on-the-spot operational control of the CIA, would be calamitous, leading to power struggles with operational chiefs which DCI could not win.

Bush is saying nothing, but intimates are convinced he will fight any reorganization that would tend to limit the DCI's control.

But Bush will take over as DCI with multiple handicaps that could weaken him when confirmed by the Senate next month, dramatized by the fact that 20 or more votes will be cast against him—the first serious opposition to a new director.

These handicaps, all arising from Bush's partisan political background, should have been foreseen by President Ford or then White House staff chief Donald Rumsfeld (now Secretary of Defense) before Bush was named DCI in the Halloween massacre. That they weren't means that an immense burden has been added

to Bush's formidable task of salvaging the CIA from its gravest disorder.

A footnote: Bush has been pointedly told that Rumsfeld, widely viewed as ambitious for the Republican vice presidential nomination next year, had no part in Mr. Ford's selection of Bush for the CIA. As DCI, Bush is out of contention for a spot on the 1976 ticket, thus enhancing the prospects of Rumsfeld and other contenders.